

## OPINION 1960

### *Crotalus ruber* Cope, 1892 (Reptilia, Serpentes): specific name given precedence over that of *Crotalus exsul* Garman, 1884

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Serpentes; *Crotalus ruber*; *Crotalus exsul*; rattlesnakes; California; Mexico.

#### Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the specific name *ruber* Cope, 1892, as published in the trinomen *Crotalus adamanteus ruber*, is hereby given precedence over the specific name *exsul* Garman, 1884, as published in the binomen *Crotalus exsul*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *ruber* Cope, 1892, as published in the trinomen *Crotalus adamanteus ruber*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *exsul* Garman, 1884, as published in the binomen *Crotalus exsul*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *exsul* Garman, 1884, as published in the binomen *Crotalus exsul*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *ruber* Cope, 1892, as published in the trinomen *Crotalus adamanteus ruber*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

#### History of Case 3005

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Crotalus ruber* Cope, 1892 by giving it precedence over *C. exsul* Garman, 1884 was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) and 10 others on 20 November 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 55: 229–232 (December 1998). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support of the application were received from a number of authors and published in BZN 56: 148–149 (June 1999). The comments were from Dr Sherman A. Minton (*Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.*), Dr R. Earl Olson (*The Organisation for Tropical Research, MSA Laboratories, Cambridge, Minnesota, U.S.A.*), Dr Wilmer W. Tanner (*Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.*), Dr Robert W. Murphy (*Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*) and Prof Bayard H. Brattstrom (*California State University (Fullerton), Fullerton, California, U.S.A.*).

A note that support for the application had also been received from Dr Aurelio Ramirez-Bautista and Dr Julio Lemos Espinal (*Unidad de Biología, Tecnología y Prototipos, Tlaxhepantla, Mexico*) was recorded in BZN 56: 149.

#### Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1999 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 55: 230–231. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2000 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 17: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 5: Bouchet, Kerzhner, Minelli, Ride and Štys.

No vote was received from Mawatari.

Lehtinen was on leave of absence.

Brothers commented: 'I vote for this case somewhat reluctantly but am swayed by the extensive use of the name *Crotalus ruber* in fields such as medicine'. Cogger and Ride commented that, since the holotype of *C. ruber* was without a known locality, future problems might be avoided by requesting the Commission to set aside the existing type and to approve one with unambiguous provenance, in accord with Smith & Taylor's (1950) restriction of the type locality to Dulzura, San Diego Co., California (para. 1 of the application).

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*exsul*, *Crotalus*. Garman, 1884. *Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard College*, **8**(3): 114.

*ruber*, *Crotalus adamanteus*. Cope, 1892. *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, **14**: 690.